



BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

May 13, 2013

5:30 p.m., Pat O'Rourke Conference Room
901 N Virginia St., El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: 6

James Tolbert, Theresa Welch Fordham, Deanna De La Cruz, Alisa Jorgensen, Jennifer Barr-Ardovino, Francoise A. Feliberti

Members Absent: Ralph Cloud, Frederick Caldwell, David Turner

Member Vacancies: 0

Staff Present: Tracy Novak, Assistant Director, Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Parks Coordinator, Richard Garcia, Park Planning & Development Manager, Steve Lunsford, General Services Land Management Superintendent, Sandra Hernandez, Secretary, Eddie Holguin, Jr., District 6 City Council Representative, Kristen Hamilton, Assistant City Attorney

1. Agenda Item #1. Meeting Called to Order

James Tolbert, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Motion by James Tolbert to change the order of the agenda to move items 6 and 7 after number 4. Second by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

2. Agenda Item #2. Approval of Minutes: April 8, 2013

Motion by Francoise A. Feliberti to approve minutes. Second by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion carried (unanimous).

3. Agenda Item #3. Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)

None

4. Agenda Item #4. Parks and Recreation Calendar and Newsletter

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, highlighted the calendar and newsletter included in the agenda packet. He spoke briefly about the successful Senior Games Banquet and provided information about upcoming events including "Club Rec" and National Kids to Parks Day.

5. Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Action: Radford (Hills) Park Design and Parking Plan

Richard Garcia, Park Planning and Development Manager, presented the site plan for Radford Park and parking space. Richard showed the area along Mobile Street that will be improved and used for parking. He also used Google Earth to show the side walks and walking trails people can use to get to the park.

Madeline Haddox, Radford Hills Neighborhood Association, presented pictures of residential streets that will be used and why she feels that it's still not enough parking space for the size of the park.

Kathy Ebert, Radford Hills Neighborhood Association, expressed that elderly people around the park will probably not be using the volleyball courts, basketball courts and tennis courts. She feels that people from outside the area will be coming to this park and will need parking space.

David Parra, Sites Southwest, and a designer for Radford Park, summarized the plan and explained that parking parallel will slow down traffic and provide a safer environment.

Richard Garcia summarized the presentation by stating that adequate on-street parking was provided by the two streets bounding the park. Mrs. Haddox was grateful with the addition that was presented and the Park Board agreed with the concept and it was stated that they were satisfied with the design and no motion was necessary.

6. Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Action: Application to name Cheryl Ladd Park located on the South Parcel of Cheryl Ladd Court as John Lyons Park. (Applicant – Susan E. Williamson)

James Tolbert advised of a controversy with this name change applicant and mentioned that Representative Holguin is objecting to the name change request.

Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Park Coordinator, presented the site, park amenities and gave a brief biography on John Lyons. Representative Holguin questioned some of the presentation and wanted to know if staff checks the facts before presenting them. Alisa Jorgensen asked if staff does a background check on the applications. Marci explained the staff responsibility and process. The application process includes a public petition of support.

H.W. "Bill" Sparks, friend of Mr. Lyons, addressed the Board and answered questions. He spoke about the achievements of John Lyons, the impact he had on the community. He asked the committee to name the park after Mr. Lyons.

Susan E. Williamson, applicant, presented certificates and awards that Mr. Lyons received. She talked about Mr. Lyons' accomplishments and the desire to clean up the Cheryl Ladd site, which had been used as a dump site for hospital waste. He invested hundreds of hours trying to make a difference in the community. He also assisted the Friends of Karl Wyler Neighborhood Association with street lighting that helped reduce graffiti in the neighborhood.

Representative Holguin spoke in opposition to the renaming of Cheryl Ladd to John Lyons Park. He presented other names of people that participated in cleaning the park and stated that John Lyons wasn't the only involved in the task, and he can suggest other candidates that have similar qualifications to rename this park after.

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Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Park Coordinator, explained the Park Naming Application process. Questions and suggestions were discussed. Deanna De La Cruz suggested postponing the application decision.

Motion by Theresa Welch Fordham to recommend to City Council to approve the name of John Lyons Park. Second by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino. Motion failed 3-3.

7. Agenda Item #7. Discussion and Action: Application to name Tres Suenos at 4701 Ramon Vega Lane to Eddy “Hirby” Beard Park (Applicant –Martha Salcido, JNC Development, INC.)

Marci Tuck, Open Space, Trails and Park Coordinator, presented the site and the park amenities. She gave a brief biography on Eddy “Hirby” Beard.

Larry Hernandez, family friend, gave a brief presentation on Eddy Beard. He mentioned how Mr. Beard had a passion for mentoring children. He described Mr. Beard as a person with a huge heart that did not limit his generosity to sports teams, but also donated money to kids in Juarez. He always wanted kids to succeed and he served as a mentor.

Art Fierro, family friend, thanked the Board for the opportunity to consider changing the park name to Eddy “Hirby” Beard Park. He asked the committee to consider naming the park after Mr. Beard.

Martha Salcido, applicant, addressed the Board members and answered questions. Ms. Salcido was approached by the family of Mr. Beard to see if the development had any street names available to be named after Mr. Beard. Unfortunately, all streets had been named. Ms. Salcido suggested naming a park after him and recommended a park that she felt met his personality. She asked the committee to consider naming the park after Mr. Beard.

Motion by Jennifer Barr-Ardovino to recommend to City Council to approve the name of Eddy “Hirby” Beard Park. Second by Theresa Welch Fordham. Motion carried (unanimous).

8. Agenda Item #5. General Services Report on Maintenance Activities

Steve Lundsford, Land Management Superintendent, gave a report on land management and facilities maintenance projects (updated handout was provided). They are having issues with pine trees. He mentioned that the landscaping at Tom Lea Upper Park has been completed. Sod projects at Memorial, Crestmont, Mary Webb, Grandview and Modesto Gomez have been completed. They have met with Maxicom and are hoping to get the six weathers stations up and running soon.

9. Agenda Item #9. Reports on Recent Activity

Tracy Novak, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, went over the lists included in the agenda packet and answered questions.

10. Agenda Item #10. Discussion and Action: Subcommittee Assignment (as needed)

None

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11. Agenda Item #11. Identify Items for Future Agendas

- Park Naming Process
- Options for drought issues
- Bond Projects (is a standing item construction improvements – included with Reports on Recent Activity)

12. Agenda Item #12. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sandra Hernandez, Secretary